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10	CLEMENTE FRANCO; HECTOR PEN TORRES; CAROL DEUPREE; JESSICA	A; PASCUAL
11	AND JUAN SARINANA	A VIKAMONTES,
12	UNITED STATES	DISTRICT COURT
13	CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CAL	LIFORNIA, WESTERN DIVISION
14		
15	TODD R. G. HILL,	Case No. 2:23-CV-01298-JLS-BFM
16	Plaintiff,	DEFENDANTS' OPPOSITION TO
17	V.	PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR LEAVE TO AMEND HIS THIRD AMENDED
1 /		COMPLAINT; AND
18	THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, OFFICERS AND AGENTS AND	MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES
19	INDIVIDUALS OF THE PEOPLES	
$_{20}$	COLLEGE OF LAW; et al.	COURT WILL TAKE UNDER SUBMISSION WITHOUT ORAL
۷۷	Defendants.	ARGUMENT

TO THE HONORABLE COURT AND TO ALL PARTIES AND THEIR COUNSEL OF RECORD:

COLLEGE OF LAW, JOSHUA GILLENS, WILLIAM MAESTAS, BOARD OF

COMES NOW the Defendants THE GUILD LAW SCHOOL DBA PEOPLE'S

NW08-0000127 15077002.1 Judge Hon. Josephine L. Staton

Magistrate Judge Hon. Brianna Fuller Mircheff

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DIRECTORS FOR THE PEOPLE'S COLLEGE OF LAW, CHRISTIN	A MARIN				
GONZALEZ, ROGER ARAMAYO, ISMAIL VENEGAS,; CLEMENTE	FRANCO				
HECTOR PENA, PASCUAL TORRES, CAROL DEUPREE,	JESSICA				
VIRAMONTES, AND JUAN SARINANA (hereinafter collectively referred to as					
"Defendants") submit the following Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion for Leave to					
Amend his Third Amended Complaint, Memorandum of Points and Authorities in					
Support of Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion for Leave to Amend his Third Amended					
Complaint.					

DATED: September 30, 2024 10 HAIGHT BROWN & BONESTEEL LLP

> By: /s/ Arezoo Jamshidi

> > Yvette Davis Arezoo Jamshidi Jeffrey Kirwin Attorneys for Defendants THE GUILD LAW SCHOOL DBA PEOPLE'S COLLEGE OF LAW, JOSHUA GILLENS, WILLIAM MAESTAS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE PEOPLE'S COLLEGE OF LAW, CHRISTINA MARIN GONZALEZ; ROGER ARAMAYO; ISMAIL VENEGAS; CLEMENTE FRANCO; HECTOR PENA; PASCUAL TORRES; CAROL DEUPREE; JESSICA VIRAMONTES; AND JUAN SARIANA

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MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

INTRODUCTION

Plaintiff Todd Hill ("Plaintiff") seeks to move this Court to file yet another amended complaint—his sixth attempt at filing a viable pleading. This Court gave Plaintiff leave to file a Third Amended Complaint—not a Fourth Amended Complaint. His Third Amended Complaint failed to follow this Court's instructions. Plaintiff did not correct the numerous deficiencies from this Second Amended Complaint and even added claims in the Third Amended Complaint that were not previously alleged. This clearly violated this Court's order that only allowed Plaintiff to file a Third Amended Complaint to correct the deficiencies outlined in the Court order—not add new claims.

Defendants (including defendant Ira Spiro and the State Bar Defendants) had extensive meet and confer efforts with Plaintiff regarding the numerous deficiencies of his Third Amended Complaint. After these meet and confer efforts, Plaintiff moved this Court to file a "Amended Third Amended Complaint." The Court should deny Plaintiff's motion for numerous reasons.

First, Plaintiff failed to comply with Local Rule 7-3. Plaintiff did not meet and confer with Defendants nor did he provide a reason as to why Local Rule 7-3 does not apply here.

Second, Plaintiff's motion contains conclusory statements without analysis or explanation as to why he is entitled to file a Fourth Amended Complaint.

Third, in light of the extensive work entailed in reviewing Plaintiff's extremely verbose and often confusing Third Amended Complaint, Defendants are faced with another equally long and confusing "Amended Third Amended Complaint." The continuous litigation expenses in having to review, decipher, analyze and formulate a response to each of Plaintiff's complaints are extensive and prejudicial.

Fourth, the Court should not grant another amendment where it would be futile. The "Amended Third Amended Complaint" contains many of the same issues the

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Second Amended and Third Amended Complaint contained. Moreover, Plaintiff includes claims that he had previously waived. Simply put, the proposed amended complaint is riddled with deficiencies, ones that Plaintiff has had numerous opportunities to cure.

Based on the foregoing reasons, the Court should deny Plaintiff's Motion to Amend.

II. PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

On February 20, 2023, Plaintiff filed his initial Complaint. [Dkt. No. 1.] On April 5, 2023, the Court issued an order, on its own motion, dismissing the Complaint for violation of F.R.C.P. 8(a) and (d), with leave to amend. [Dkt No. 37.] The order explains in detail why the Complaint was improper, how it violated the Federal Rules, and why it must be dismissed. On April 18, 2023, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Complaint. [Dkt. No. 38.]

On May 5, 2023, Plaintiff filed a document entitled "A Motion for Leave to Supplement Todd R. G. Hill's First Amended Complaint," and attached a proposed "Supplemental First Amended Complaint." [Dkt. No. 40.] The "Supplemental First Amended Complaint" was 114 pages, with no exhibits, but referred to the same exhibits as the First Amended Complaint. [Dkt. No. 40.]

On June 7, 2023, the Court issued an order that denied Plaintiff's Motion for Leave to Supplement the First Amended Complaint and dismissed the First Amended Complaint with leave to amend. [Dkt. No. 45.] The order explains in detail why the First Amended Complaint was improper, how it violated the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and this Court's Local Rules, and why it must be dismissed. The last paragraph of the order paragraph reads:

> If Hill still wishes to pursue this action, he is granted twenty-one (21) days from the date of this Order to file a Second Amended Complaint, attempting to cure the defects in the Complaint described herein. The Second Amended Complaint must be complete in itself and not refer in any manner to the FAC or the original Complaint. The Second Amended Complaint should

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contain a "short and plain statement" of the claim or claims for relief, setting forth, in straightforward fashion, the facts supporting each claim. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a), (d)(1). All allegations should be made in (correctly) numbered paragraphs. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 10(b).

(Emphasis added.)

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Plaintiff failed to file a Second Amended Complaint within 21 days of the Court's order. On July 27, 2023, the Court issued a Judgment of Dismissal for failure to file a Second Amended Complaint within the 21 days allotted. [Dkt. No. 47.]

Over a month later, on September 7, 2023, Plaintiff did the following:

- 1. Filed a "Motion for Leave to File a Second Amended Complaint and to Set Aside Judgment of Dismissal" [Dkt. No. 48]; and
- 2. Filed a Second Amended Complaint, even though Plaintiff's Motion for Leave to File a Second Amended Complaint had not been granted or even ruled on, and the Judgment of Dismissal had not been set aside. [Dkt. No. 49.]

On September 18, 2023, the Court issued an order striking the Second Amended Complaint. [Dkt. No. 51.] In addition, the Court issued an order granting Plaintiff's motion to set aside the dismissal and ordering Plaintiff to file an amended complaint within 14 days of the order. [Dkt. No. 54.] Two days later, on September 20, 2023, Plaintiff filed the SAC. [Dkt. No. 55.]

On April 23, 2024, Magistrate Judge Brianna Fuller Mircheff filed an Interim Report and Recommendation of United States Magistrate Judge (the, "Report"). The Report recommended Plaintiff's Second Amended Complaint be dismissed. Notably, the Magistrate Judge recommended the SAC be dismissed because it failed to comply with FRCP 8. The Report explained:

The 121-page SAC, like the First Amended Complaint (see ECF 45 at 8-9 (discussing same)), is excessively long and often confusing. Indeed, the SAC is almost fifty pages longer than the First Amended Complaint – a complaint that the District Judge described as excessively prolix. Moreover, despite the District Judge's prior warnings, the SAC continues to exhibit the landmarks of a "shotgun

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pleading." The Court thus agrees with Defendants that dismissal under Rule 8 is once again appropriate.

On August 12, 2024, this Court accepted the Report and Recommendation filed by Magistrate Judge Brianna Fuller Mircheff. The Court ordered the following: (1) dismissed the Second Amended Complaint in its entirety for failure to comply with Rule 8; (2) dismissed with prejudice all of Plaintiff's claims against the State Bar and its committees or departments because these Defendants have Eleventh Amendment immunity (except for Plaintiff's Twelfth and Thirteenth Causes of Action based only on Title IX); (3) dismissed with prejudice all of Plaintiff's claims against the individual State Bar Defendants in their official capacity (except Plaintiff's Twelfth and Thirteenth Causes of Action based only on Title IX and Sixth and Seventh Causes of Action to the extent those claims may seek declaratory or injunctive relief); (4) dismissed with prejudice Plaintiff's Sixth Cause of Action to the extent it seeks Federal Bar admission; (5) dismissed with prejudice Plaintiff's Fourteenth, Fifteenth and Sixteenth Cause of Action under 18 U.S.C. §§ 241, 242 and 245 because there is no private right of action under those statutes; and (6) dismissed with prejudice Defendants office of Chief Trial Counsel, Board of Trustees, Office of Admissions and Office of General Counsel. [Dkt. No. 145.]

On August 21, 2024, Plaintiff filed his Third Amended Complaint, but it was not served on Defendants until August 26, 2024. [Dkt. No. 148.] On September 4, Defendant Ira Spiro filed his motion to dismiss the Third Amended Complaint and an amended motion the next day. [Dkt. Nos. 152, 154.]

On September 6, 2024, Plaintiff filed a motion to amend his Third Amended Complaint. [Dkt. 163.]

On September 9, 2024, Defendants filed their motion to dismiss the Third Amended Complaint, which the Court struck for procedural deficiencies. [Dkt. 159, 162.] Defendants refiled their motion on September 12, 2024. [Dkt. No. 165.] The State Bar Defendants filed their motion to dismiss Plaintiff's Third Amended Complaint on September 23, 2024. [Dkt. No. 172.]

III. ARGUMENT

A. Plaintiff Failed to Comply with Local Rule 7-3.

Ironically, despite Plaintiff's countless claims that Defendants failed to comply with Local Rule 7-3, Plaintiff did not even attempt to meet and confer with Defendants on his motion to amend. There is no declaration of compliance attached to Plaintiff's motion. Plaintiff does not even provide an argument as why Local Rule 7-3 does not apply. On this basis alone, the motion should be denied.

B. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15(a) Does Not Provide Authority to Plaintiff to Amend His Complaint.

Plaintiff relies solely on Federal Rule of Civil Procedure section 15(a) to support the filing of his "Amended Third Amended Complaint." According to Plaintiff, "[t]he Rule provides that the movant can file amendments freely up to 21 days from the date of filing." [Motion, p. 3:10-11.] Plaintiff's reliance on this rule is misplaced.

Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15, a plaintiff may amend the complaint once as a matter of course within "(A) 21 days after serving it, or (B) if the pleading is one to which a responsive pleading is required, 21 days after service of a responsive pleading or 21 days after service of a motion under Rule 12(b), (e), or (f), whichever is earlier." Fed.R.Civ.P. 15(a)(1). "In all other cases, a party may amend its pleading only with the opposing party's written consent or the court's leave." Fed.R.Civ.P. 15(a)(2).

Plaintiff indicates that he is amending "as a matter of course." [Dkt. No. 163.] However, Plaintiff already amended the complaint, not once but four times. The Rule governing amended and supplemental pleadings only allows a party to amend its pleading once as a matter of course, rather than once for each time any opposing party files a responsive pleading or a motion to dismiss. *Wilson v. Ortega*, No. 2:21-cv-

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0314 KJM AC P, at *1-2 (E.D. Cal. Jan. 20, 2023); see also Zayas v. Messit, No. C20-0747-JCC, 2021 WL 3675033, at *2 (W.D. Wash. Aug. 19, 2021) ("Plaintiff exhausted her one-time right to amend as a matter of course when she filed her first amended complaint"); United States ex rel. D'Agostino v. EV3, Inc., 802 F.3d 188, 193 (1st Cir. 2015) (the time to amend begins when plaintiff files his complaint, "the word 'within' merely specifies the point at which the right expires"). Since Plaintiff has already amended once as a matter of course, he must first obtain Defendants' consent or leave of the court before amending again.

This Court Should Deny Plaintiff's Leave to Amend Where C. Defendants Will Be Prejudice and Where Amendment Would Be Futile.

Despite relying on Rule 15(a), Plaintiff seeks leave from this Court to amend his Third Amended Complaint. Oddly, Plaintiff renames his pleading as an "Amended Third Amended Complaint" when it should be correctly referred to as his Fourth Amended Complaint. Regardless, Plaintiff sets forth conclusory arguments as to why this Court should grant leave to amend, none of which have merit.

"In determining whether leave to amend is appropriate, the district court considers 'the presence of any of four factors: bad faith, undue delay, prejudice to the opposing party, and/or futility." Owens v. Kaiser Found. Health Plan, Inc., 244 F.3d 708, 712 (9th Cir. 2001) (additional citation omitted).

"Prejudice is the touchstone of the inquiry under rule 15(a)." Eminence Capital, LLC v. Aspeon, Inc., 316 F.3d 1048, 1052 (9th Cir. 2003) (internal quotes omitted). A district court's discretion is "particularly broad' where the plaintiff has previously amended." Salameh v. Tarsadia Hotel, 726 F.3d 1124, 1133 (9th Cir. 2013) (plaintiff had "ample opportunity to properly plead a case"). The fact that the pleader failed to take advantage of previous opportunities to amend, without explanation, may also be ground for denying leave to amend. Jang v. Boston Scientific Scimed, Inc., 729 F.3d

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357, 368 (3rd Cir. 2013) ("This court has declined to reward a wait-and-see approach to pleading").

Here, Plaintiff claims in a conclusory fashion that "[t]he proposed amendment will not prejudice the existing defendants. The new defendants are connected to the same set of facts and events already detailed in the TAC." [Dkt. No. 163, p. 3.] This is simply untrue.

The Court granted the dismissal of Plaintiff's Second Amended Complaint with leave to amend to allow Plaintiff to cure the deficiencies outlined in the Court's order. Plaintiff filed his Third Amended Complaint, but failed to cure the deficiencies from his Second Amended Complaint. In fact, Plaintiff created even more deficiencies. Even worse, Plaintiff improperly included claims not previously alleged in the Second Amended Complaint. Simply put, Plaintiff did not take advantage of the opportunity to file a viable Third Amended Complaint despite the Court's clear instructions on correcting the deficiencies. Plaintiff defiantly ignored these instructions and should not be rewarded with yet another (fifth) opportunity to amend his complaint.

Defendants, including defendant Ira Spiro and the State Bar Defendants have all filed motions to dismiss Plaintiff's Third Amended Complaint. Each set of Defendants spent considerable time meeting and conferring with Plaintiff as well as analyzing Plaintiff's Third Amended Complaint to determine the viability of each claim alleged, including the new claims not previously alleged. This is at considerable expense to the Defendants, who have already gone through several iterations of Plaintiff's complaint. These complaints have been excessively long and often confusing, which required a tremendous amount of time to analyze in order to provide a response. These substantial litigation expenses are prejudicial to Defendants. Owens v. Kaiser Found. Health Plan, Inc., 244 F.3d 708, 712 (9th Cir. 2001).

In addition to prejudice against Defendants, leave to amend may be denied if the proposed amendment is futile or would be subject to dismissal. Carrico v. City & County of San Francisco, 656 F.3d 1002, 1008 (9th Cir. 2011). Despite the numerous

opportunities this Court has provided Plaintiff, his proposed "Amended Third Amended Complaint" does not correct the many deficiencies outlined by the Court nor the deficiencies outlined by Defendants. Leave to amend will be futile.

For example, there is still nothing short and concise about the proposed "Amended Third Amended Complaint." In fact, it is longer and contains more paragraphs than the Third Amended Complaint. This is despite the fact that the proposed complaint contains misnumbered paragraphs (see Dkt. No. 164, at p. 32.).

Plaintiff's proposed amended complaint continues to use the "shotgun pleading" style that the Court criticized in its denial of Plaintiff's request to supplement the First Amended Complaint. [Dkt. No. 45, p. 5-6.] For example, Plaintiff asserts causes of action against individual defendants, but fails specify allegations about what those individuals did. Plaintiff's causes of action incorporate by reference several prior paragraphs in the Amended Third Amended Complaint, often stating "with particular emphasis" on stated allegations in a select list of paragraphs. However, the referenced paragraphs are confusing and do not align with the allegations.

Further, many of the individual defendants do not appear in any allegation despite the initial paragraphs identifying them. The caption lists other defendants (e.g. Viramontes) who are not identified as a defendant at all. In the proposed amended complaint, Plaintiff attempts to define "Board of Directors", "Officers" or "Agents of the Peoples College of Law." However, the definitions are unhelpful and create more confusion. Plaintiff fails to specify the individuals that are included in these groups and only provides a broad definition (i.e., "Board of Directors' refers to the governing body of the Peoples College of Law, responsible for overall management and strategic decision."). This definition is unhelpful as Plaintiff still refers to individual defendants being sued in their individual capacity (see e.g., Dkt. No. 164, ¶ 175). As such, Defendants are still left guessing who is included in these groups.

Ultimately, Plaintiff still has not cured the many deficiencies outlined by this Court and in lengthy meet and confer efforts by Defendants. Plaintiff's proposed "Amended Third Amended Complaint" is undoubtedly subject to a motion to dismiss and therefore, the Court should not grant yet another opportunity for Plaintiff to amend his complaint.

Additionally, Plaintiff has made amendments that he previously waived and are therefore improper. An amended complaint that "voluntarily" drops a defendant named in the original complaint effectively dismisses that defendant from the action. Similarly, a plaintiff waives all causes of action alleged in the original complaint that are "voluntarily" not alleged in the amended complaint. *Lacey v. Maricopa County*, 693 F3d 896, 928 (9th Cir. 2012). For example, in Plaintiff's Third Amended Complaint, the second cause of action for Violation of the Unruh Civil Right Act was alleged against individual defendants and not PCL. Plaintiff's proposed Amended Third Amended Complaint now removes all the individual defendants and alleges this cause of action against PCL. This is improper.

IV. <u>CONCLUSION</u>

For the foregoing reasons, Defendants respectfully request that the Court deny Plaintiff's motion to amend his Third Amended Complaint.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH LOCAL RULE 11-6.1

The undersigned party certifies that this brief contains 2359 words, which complies with the word limit of L.R. 11-6.1.

///

NW08-0000127 15077002.1 DATED: September 30, 2024 HAIGHT BROWN & BONESTEEL LLP

By: /s/ Arezoo Jamshidi

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PROOF OF SERVICE

Hill v. The Board of Directors, Officers, et al.

Case No. 2:23-cv-01298-JLS-CFM

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

At the time of service, I was over 18 years of age and not a party to this action. I am employed in the County of Orange, State of California. My business address is 402 West Broadway, Suite 1850, San Diego, California 92101.

On September 30, 2024, I served true copies of the following document(s) described as **DEFENDANTS' OPPOSITION TO PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR LEAVE TO AMEND HIS THIRD AMENDED COMPLAINT; MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES AND DECLARATION OF AREZOO JAMSHIDI IN SUPPORT THEREOF** on the interested parties in this action as follows:

SEE ATTACHED SERVICE LIST

BY CM/ECF NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC FILING: I electronically filed the document(s) with the Clerk of the Court by using the CM/ECF system. Participants in the case who are registered CM/ECF users will be served by the CM/ECF system. Participants in the case who are not registered CM/ECF users will be served by mail or by other means permitted by the court rules.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct and that I am employed in the office of a member of the bar of this Court at whose direction the service was made.

Executed on September 30, 2024, at San Diego, California.

/s/ Amy Craig Amy Craig

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1 2	SERVICE LIST Hill v. The Board of Directors, Officers, et al. Case No. 2:23-cv-01298-JLS-CFM	
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